

which I have to show some drawersful of lightweight manuscripts. One reason why some of us get a scant hearing is because we have nothing to say and say it beautifully. For this cause many are weak and sickly among us, and many in our congregations sleep."

Quiet Observer

Quiet Observer has been around a good bit in his time and would like to record a few observations about the way public worship is conducted.

Like most of the other customs, good and bad, which we have, the form of our public worship has been largely inherited. Of course not all the details have been, but I mean the general form and spirit of it. Unless some exceptional influence has been brought to bear upon us we expect to follow the forms of our childhood. Some have been taught to kneel in prayer and some to stand. Some are used to an elaborate service and some to no program at all. Add to this difference in training the difference in natural temperament which exists and you have enough to account for the varieties of ritual in use. The preference of the cultivated, precise and aristocratic Presbyterian or Episcopalian for an imposing but formal manner of worship is just as natural as that of the uncultured, inartistic, but highly emotional Salvation Army worker for his enthusiastic service. Now it so happens that in the migration of families and the intermingling of all kinds of people in our busy American life, congregations are not always united in their tastes as to form of worship. What shall the pastor do under the circumstances? He too has a choice which in turn is governed largely by his temperament and training. In those churches in which custom or law prescribes an order of worship the pastor has little choice, but in the Brethren church the spirit of freedom and progress is not so fettered. With us the pastor may mould the custom and largely the taste of his people.

This opportunity brings with it, as opportunity always does, a responsibility. Does the point receive proper attention? I think it is a fair observation that most pastors are governed largely by their own feelings in determining how many songs are to be sung, when the offering is to be received and announcements made, etc. And I think it a fair observation too, that most pastors have room for improvement in their feelings on the subject. I have known some to follow the same order of worship without variation for years. Others I have known to weary a congregation by some particular hobby while considerate in other respects. Are there any principles which may apply! Let me suggest several considerations.

1. The precedent of the apostolic church ought not be ignored. It was adapted to the people and times and should not be considered binding upon us in all its details, but the spirit back of those original prayer meetings and preaching services may well be ours. They were characterized by a simplicity and freedom from which the fixed and elaborate rituals of some churches today are a wide departure.

2. The culture of the congregation must be taken into account. In general the uneducated classes are most demonstrative. They prefer a free and easy service. The so-called higher classes love to show more self-control and incline to the quiet emotions aroused by artistic and stately services. It is perfectly proper to allow as far as is right the religious feeling of a congregation to express itself in its own way. Each church must modify its form of service to suit itself. Variety ensues of course, but who would prefer to have but one color for all flowers or one song for all birds?

3. The psychological law demanding variety as a condition of interest is as sacred as any command of the Bible. Let it be observed. Introduce new features. Sing new songs. Have some services at least in which the congregation does not know just

what is coming next. Of some methods of observing this principle I want to speak at another time.

4. Above all, the mechanical details of the service should be made subservient to its spiritual purpose. Who has not observed that the heart impassioned with love of souls finds ways and means adapted to its ends? The form is a matter of expediency, but the spirit of worship is vital.

Brevities

Russia's export of eggs exceeds 1,500,000,000 a year.

The life of an Australian native rarely exceeds 50 years.

It is said at the War Department that for every vacancy in either the military or naval academy, which the President has the power of filling by appointment, there are 100 applications.

A movement has been started in Erie to erect a monument to the memory of Captain Gridley, who commanded the Olympia in the battle of Manila.

Teachers with physical ailments are to be barred from the Chicago schools in future. Only those of robust physique will be employed.

The middle chapter of the Bible is the One hundred and seventeenth Psalm, and the middle verse is the eighth of the One hundred and eighteenth Psalm. The twenty-first verse of the seventh chapter of Ezra has all the letters of the alphabet.

Victor Ballot died in France recently, aged one hundred and five years and ten months. He had fought at Waterloo and was afterwards discharged from the army as a consumptive.

During the last nine months, more than \$4,000,000 worth of railway locomotives have been shipped from the United States to foreign countries.

Professor Sneath in his study of Tennyson's religious convictions as disclosed in his poems, concludes that the "Crossing of the Bar" is the best expression of them, and notes that the poet directed this to be published as the concluding number in every future edition of his poems.

The orange expert estimates Florida's orange crop for the season of 1900-1901, at 1,000,000 boxes. The average price for the coming season is approximated at \$2 per box on the trees.

Each infant robin, it is estimated, requires for its proper maintenance about fourteen inches of tender angle worm every day. As a robin family averages four, the mother is obliged to provide fifty-six inches of worm daily.

At Ohio State University next year chapel exercises will consist of a weekly convocation, to occupy the entire recitation period on one day from 11 to 12 o'clock. No other college exercises will occur at this time, and all students and all members of the faculty will be expected to attend. The exercises, besides a brief devotional service, will include addresses by the President, prominent professors or distinguished visitors.

The sparrow is a wise bird; up at the faintest streak of dawn he is on the go until the shades of night are fully developed. Astronomers watching the eclipse noted that the sparrows were the last to succumb to the darkness and the first to resume their predatory activity on the faint dawn of renewed light.

Cork is about the most buoyant substance there is, but a cork sunk 200 feet deep in the ocean will not raise again to the surface owing to the great pressure of the water. At any less distance from the surface, however, it will gradually work its way back to light once more.

The Countess Louise Erdody, whose death is reported from Vienna, was more generally known as the "Latin Lady." Her great aim in life was

to see Latin again the international medium of intercourse in correspondence. In her own writings she always used this language, which she had mastered to a wonderful degree. Her hobby brought her to destitution and she died in extreme poverty.

Our Cream Pitcher

F. W. Robertson

The admission of a fact, however sublime, is not faith. We may believe that Christ is risen, and yet not be nearer heaven. Trust in the risen Savior—that is the belief which saves the world.

P. S. Henson

In this sad world of work and worry, of sorrow and sin, we greatly need such refreshment and uplift as comes from communion with each other and with the Lord.

J. R. Miller

We need the peace of God in our hearts just as really for the doing of little things in our everyday life, as for doing of the greatest duties of Christ's Kingdom.

Fenelon

Let not the word "yoke" frighten you; we must bear the weight, but God helps us to bear it; it is a burden that two must carry, and God shares it with us.

Bible Reader

The fruit of the Spirit in terms of love are:

Joy is love exulting.
Peace is love in repose.
Longsuffering is love untiring.
Gentleness is love enduring.
Goodness is love in action.
Faith is love on the battle field.
Meekness is love under discipline.
Temperance is love in training.

Dr. A. K. Parker

If man would meet God's requirement, he must bring to the altar, always, a life. Nowhere can there be found an acceptable substitute for the devotion of the living soul. It is not a dreadful necessity which compels a rosebush to blossom, or a linnnet to sing. It is no dreadful necessity to which man yields when he denies himself, that God may have the supremacy. In this surrender man is at his best; for this he was made.

New York Observer

Patience is always hopeful. It believes enough in the lost to labor for their recovery. It makes its possessor optimistic also regarding the outcome of his own trials. He sees the smile of God behind every cloud. He has confidence in the final outcome of life. He prefers rather "to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." No "hard times" can daunt his courage or overthrow his faith. Patience with others, with circumstances, with all forms of trial, disappointments and ill, is the Christian's duty, nay, more, his high privilege and glory.

J. Clayton Wingerd

The world is moving on from victory to victory, and from conquering to conquest. Life is real, life is earnest; the grave is not the goal. Count for me earth's chosen heroes. They are energetic Christian men, who stand alone, stand serene and down the future see the golden age, the universal brotherhood of men—God's supreme design.

In all the relations of human action, energetic Christian education, properly utilized, measures the degree of success achieved, and opens the gateway for our hopes. When the activities of men shall be directed to the establishment of a reign of righteousness, universal peace will prevail among the nations, and the most exalted blessing shall be the rich heritage of men.